

City of Boiling Spring Lakes

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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD City Hall Nevember 10, 2014

November 19, 2014 6:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Bob Stanley, Chairman, Verda Darrell, Vice-Chair, Janet Wall

Bruce Pennington, Suzanne Goffredo, Bon Cantrell (late)

Absent: Sandra Krasnow

Commissioner Liaison: Mary Stilwell (absent); Barbara Glidden attended

Staff: Mary Green ~ P&R Director, Pamela Bellina ~ Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER ~

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Stanley at 6:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ~

A motion was made by Suzanne Goffredo and seconded by Verda Darrell to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: 5 - 0 ~ Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ~

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Bruce Pennington to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes as corrected.

Vote: 6 - 0 ~ Motion Carried

IV. Public Comment ~ none.

V. Old Business ~

A. Lighting at tennis/basketball courts ~ update

Mary Green presented the Advisory Board with an email from William Murphy, City Engineer which proposed three options for lighting and a quote from Greenshine for solar lighting. Mary stated there are risk and liability obligations as well as light patterns and lumens that have to be considered. Mary felt that while it would be a great recreational amenity, it was exceptionally expensive and did not feel that it was the best location where lighting should be installed because it was next to a house. Lighting could be directional but the neighbors would be subjected to the activity at the courts. The Advisory Board discussed at length where the courts could be located that would not be next to neighbors. The Community Center was suggested but Mary advised that 10 years ago when the center was built, the community was senior based and being located on that side of Rt. 87 was okay. The demographics now have completely flipped and there is a Community Center that the kids cannot access because of the location.

The Advisory Board discussed at length the acquisition of property on the east side of Route 87 to have a new, larger, improved Community Center that would accommodate more recreational activities and how that type of project should be addressed and funded. Mary agreed with the Advisory Board there does need to be a long term plan in place and stated she will need the support of the Advisory Board in this endeavor with the Board of Commissioners. The following items were also discussed at length: The previous plan of making a park area by the Community Center and the difficulties of same; the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant; to floating a bond for a new Community Center; and how and where to purchase land for this new center. Mary advised that there is a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund but the City would have to match the amount of funds being given in the grant. The project could be done in phases with each phase to be completed within three years and each phase could be structured to not come out of one budget period. Mary also advised that very little money has gone into the capital improvement fund for Parks and Recreation in the past and there needs to be hundreds of thousands of dollars put into the capital improvement fund.

Bon asked if there was a temporary fix to lighting the existing courts because he felt it was not acceptable to not have lights and he did not want to see the idea shut down. Mary Green reviewed the options listed in the email: first option – the company was responsible for the maintenance of the lights. Option 2 was "in house" – we hire the electrician, we take care of poles. Option 3 was Duke Energy and their lights would be on from dawn to dusk and there would be no turning them off at night. Mary commented that if the final decision were up to her, she would say it was not the place to put lighting. She clarified by stating it was not the lighting, but the sound of basketballs bouncing late into the night. Bon reminded Mary that the neighbor stated she did not mind having lights on until 10 PM at night and that there was activity in the park at night. Mary stated she did not want to prevent the Advisory Board from making a recommendation to the Board since that was not her place and apologized for stating her opinion.

Bon Cantrell asked Mary Green about the survey results and requested the information on what the residents most want to see in the City. Mary stated she will have all of the information compiled by January 1st. Mary stated a gymnasium was high in the list as well as walking trails.

A Motion was made by Bruce Pennington and seconded by Bon Cantrell to table the lighting discussion until after the survey results are compiled.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried

B. Christmas Flotilla / chili dinner ~ update

Bon Cantrell stated since it was decided at the meeting last month to table the discussion because the event will not take place this year, he did not speak with Special Events or Steve at the golf course and would like to table the discussion until next year.

The Advisory Board discussed the reasons the flotilla failed in the past and combining the event with Special Events' Annual Tree Lighting next year. Commissioner Glidden suggested that someone from the Advisory Board attend the Special Events committee meeting in January or February because they were considering a July 4th flotilla versus a Christmas Flotilla. She advised it was not yet a planned event with Special Events so there would be time for both committees to work together and plan the event. Bob Stanley suggested closing Alton Lennon Drive by the swim park for the few hours of the event to accommodate the citizens who want to watch the flotilla. Bon Cantrell would like to be notified when Special Events has their meeting to discuss event planning as he would like to attend.

A Motion was made by Suzanne Goffredo and seconded by Bruce Pennington to table the Christmas Flotilla.

Vote: 6 – 0; **Motion Carried**

C. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Ordinance ~

The Advisory Board discussed whether there were any changes to be made to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Ordinance. The members discussed at length the stipulation of missing 3 consecutive meetings or 4 meetings within a 12-month period. Bob Stanley and Bon Cantrell felt the stipulation was fair since all members were needed on the Advisory Board to make informed decisions. The members also discussed that excused absences would not be allowed which the Advisory Board was advised at the previous meeting. Commissioner Glidden stated she did not believe that was true and that excused absences were events such as a death in family, sickness or hospitalization, etc. Bon Cantrell stated it was discussed at the last meeting if you miss meetings because of work, it would be considered non-excused. Mary Green stated that the BOC was looking to the Advisory Board for any changes they wanted to make to their Ordinance. Bruce Pennington stated he disagreed with the stipulation. Mary Green read from the Ordinance, "Absences due to sickness, death or emergencies of like nature shall be regarded as approved absences and shall not affect membership, except that in event of a long illness, or other such cause for prolonged absence, a member may be replaced."

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Verda Darrell to keep the Ordinance as is with no changes.

Vote: 6 – 0; Motion Carried

D. Advertising in the Parks ~

Mary Green asked to table this topic until after the first of the year.

A Motion was made by Suzanne Goffredo and seconded by Bruce Pennington to table Advertising in the Parks until after the first of the year.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried

E. Pets in the Park ~

Bob Stanley stated he read the proposed Ordinance and noted that there was no mention of pets in the parks in the proposed Ordinance and most of the ordinance was about vicious dogs. Commissioner Glidden stated the BOC worked on the leash law part of the Ordinance which included vicious dogs and that there will be a workshop set at the December BOC meeting which will be to work more on the Ordinance because it was still in the working stages. Bon Cantrell and Bob Stanley stated they would like to attend the workshop and asked to be advised of the date and time.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo to table the Pets in the Parks discussion until after the Board of Commissioners' Workshop in January.

Vote: 6 – 0; **Motion Carried**

VI. New Business ~

A. December Parks & Recreation meeting

Mary Green requested from the Advisory Board if the December meeting could be cancelled since it is the week before Christmas which was a busy time for everyone.

A Motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Verda Darrell to cancel the December Parks and Recreation meeting.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried

B. Pancake Breakfast ~ December 6, 2014 7:30 AM to 10 AM

Mary Green provided the Advisory Board with tickets for the Pancake Breakfast and requested the members purchase or sell the tickets. Mary also advised that Santa and Mrs. Claus would be appearing from 9 AM until 11 AM.

VII. Citizens Concerns ~

Commissioner Glidden inquired about the fishing pier. Mary Green stated she was still working on it and hoped to have something decided in the spring. Mary advised the City Engineer was very concerned with the stability of the lake bottom so they were looking at different options or placing it at North Lake.

VIII. Announcements ~

Mary Green announced the Senior Christmas Party at 11 AM on December 18th. Bob Stanley volunteered to appear at the party on behalf of the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Glidden announced Special Events' First Annual Tree Lighting on December 6th from 5 PM to 8 PM at City Hall. Bruce Pennington asked if the tree was live and would be planted. Commissioner Glidden stated yes, it would be and that it was donated.

IX. Next Meeting Agenda Items ~ January 2015

Bon Cantrell requested that the Advisory Board continue discussing the topics discussed at the meeting and to find ways to make them happen next year. He stated the community was growing and these facilities were needed. He felt the Advisory Board needs to act before all of the property is purchased. He asked the Advisory Board to please keep pushing these items at each meeting and to hammer out where the committee was in pursuing the items and also what the community wants as per the survey. Bon felt that if it takes fundraising by the Advisory Board, then that will be something that has to be done but it will not happen if the Advisory Board does not keep hammering away at making them happen. Suzanne Goffredo suggested going after grants. Mary Green stated she was disappointed when the feasibility funds were denied and felt that part of that decision may have been a misunderstanding of what the Police Chief and Mary were trying to accomplish. Mary agreed with Bon that the Advisory Board needed to move toward a long term solution for our problems which will not happen next year but within three to five years.

Bob Stanley asked about bonds available specifically for Parks and Recreation and Mary Green stated there were. Mary suggested hiring a consulting firm or architectural firm that specializes in parks to do a feasibility study which would be beneficial. Parks & Recreation has a good Master Plan but it expires next year which is another item that needs to be discussed starting in January. Suzanne Goffredo thought that putting a Community Center on the City Hall side of 87 would bring more residents to the area and it would be a good selling point. Commissioner Glidden stated that the next year was the next municipal election and would be the year to put out a bond vote.

Mary Green advised that she will be out on medical leave for an extended period of time but will Skype into the next meetings.

X. Adjourn ~

A Motion was made by Bruce Pennington and seconded by Suzanne Goffredo to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina Administrative Assistant